

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An air bearing slider comprising:
a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides and including an elongate length between the leading and trailing edges forming a leading edge portion, a trailing edge portion and an intermediate portion proximate to a center axis of the slider body and a cross width between the opposed sides and the intermediate portion having a length dimension no larger than length dimensions of the leading edge portion and the trailing edge portion and the trailing edge portion having a cross nodal portion and off nodal portions and the cross nodal portion having a cross width dimension no larger than a cross width dimension of the off nodal portions and the slider body including a raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above milled surface or surfaces and the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the trailing edge portion having a narrow cross width profile within the cross nodal portion of the slider body to limit off nodal pressurization and the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the intermediate portion having an expanded cross width profile relative to the narrow cross width profile of the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the trailing edge portion of the slider body.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) The slider of claim 2—21 wherein the ~~opposed spaced pads including a leading edge stepped trench to pressurize the opposed spaced pads~~raised bearing surface or

surfaces include opposed angled side rails angled outwardly in a direction of the trailing edge and including a trailing edge center pad spaced from the opposed sides of the slider body.

4. (currently amended - withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~1~~21 wherein the intermediate portion includes a raised cross rail forming the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the intermediate portion of the slider body having an expanded cross width dimension along the intermediate portion of the slider body and a shortened length dimension along the intermediate portion of the slider body.

5. (currently amended- withdrawn) The slider of claim 4 wherein the raised cross rail includes side portions on opposed sides ~~of a cross axis~~ of the slider body and the opposed side portions include leading edge trenches to pressurize the raised bearing surface or surfaces of the raised cross rail.

6. (currently amended- withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~1~~21 wherein the intermediate portion includes a stepped cross rail providing a stepped interface ~~to~~for the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the intermediate portion of the slider body.

7. (currently amended) The slider of claim ~~1~~21 wherein the ~~intermediate portion includes contoured raised bearing surface or surfaces~~ include raised bearing rails on opposed sides of a cross axis of the slider body ~~forming the raised bearing surface or surfaces~~ along ~~the~~an intermediate portion of the slider body spaced from the leading and trailing edges of the slider body and the ~~contoured raised bearing rails extending at an angled~~ outwardly in a direction toward the trailing edge of the slider body ~~from to form a the narrow cross width profile width~~ along ~~the~~a leading edge portion ~~to and the an expanded cross width~~

profile width along the intermediate portion ~~to provide the expanded cross width profile along the intermediate portion of the slider body.~~

8. (currently amended) The slider of claim 7 wherein ~~the contoured~~ the raised bearing rails extend from a leading edge bearing pad center relative to opposed sides raised bearing surface having a narrow cross width profile ~~forming the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the leading edge portion of the slider body and~~ the slider including a ~~contoured~~ stepped bearing surface elevated from a cavity surface having a narrow cross width profile along the leading edge portion and a ~~diamond shaped stepped profile extending an~~ expanded profile width along the intermediate portion of the slider body, wherein the raised bearing rails and the center raised bearing surface are formed on the stepped bearing surface.

9. (currently amended) The slider of claim ~~1-21~~ including a leading edge pad or rail having a narrow cross width profile within a cross nodal region of the leading edge portion of the slider body wherein the slider body includes a cavity surface or surfaces recessed below the raised bearing surface or surfaces and the leading edge includes opposed corner portions proximate to the opposed sides and the trailing edge includes opposed corner portions proximate to the opposed sides and each of the opposed corner portions forms the cavity surface or surfaces.

10. (currently amended - withdrawn) The slider of claim ~~1-21~~ wherein the intermediate portion includes a stepped cross rail having a shortened length dimension along the intermediate portion of the slider body and an expanded stepped cross profile dimension.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) An air bearing slider comprising:
a slider body having a leading edge, a trailing edge, opposed sides and a cross width between the opposed sides and the slider body including a raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above a recessed surface or surfaces and the raised bearing surface or surfaces having a cross width profile including narrow cross width profiles along leading and trailing edge portions of the slider body and an expanded cross width profile along an intermediate portion of the slider body having a length dimension no larger than the leading and trailing edge portions of the slider body to limit off nodal pressurization.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The slider of claim 12 wherein the ~~leading edge portion includes a raised center pad or rail having a narrow cross width dimension to form the raised bearing surface~~ or surfaces include divergent bearing rails which extend outwardly toward the opposed sides of the slider body in a direction of the trailing ~~along the leading edge portion of the slider body.~~

16. (currently amended) The slider of claim 15 and further including a stepped bearing surface recessed from the raised bearing surface or surfaces and elevated above a cavity surface and the divergent bearing rails are formed on the stepped rails ~~along the trailing edge portion of the slider body having an expanded cross width profile~~ bearing surface.

Claims 17-19 (cancelled)

20. (original) An air bearing slider comprising:
a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and
opposed sides; and
bearing surface means on the slider body for providing a
nodal bearing pressure profile to limit off-nodal
pressurization.

21. (currently amended) An air bearing slider comprising:
a slider body having a leading edge, a trailing edge and
opposed sides; and
a raised bearing surface or surfaces having a perimeter
surface profile including a narrow leading edge profile
width, an expanded intermediate profile width and a
trailing edge profile having a narrowing profile width
~~profile~~ relative to the expanded intermediate profile
width to limit off-nodal air pressurization.

22. (new) The slider of claim 3 wherein the angled side
rails extend from a center relative to opposed sides raised
bearing surface portion having a narrow width dimension to
provide the narrow profile width for the raised bearing surface
or surfaces proximate to the leading edge of the slider body.

23. (new) The slider of claim 3 and comprising a leading edge
stepped surface elevated from a cavity surface and recessed from
the angled side rails.

24. (new) The slider of claim 3 wherein the slider body
includes a stepped bearing surface having a tapered outer profile

elevated from a cavity surface and the angled side rails are formed on the tapered stepped bearing surface.

25. (new) The slider of claim 21 wherein the raised bearing surface or surfaces include a divergent bearing surface including a tapered leading edge proximate to the leading edge of the slider body and the divergent bearing surface extends outwardly from the tapered leading edge in a direction of the trailing edge and including a stepped bearing surface proximate to the divergent bearing surface to pressurize the divergent bearing surface.

26. (new) The slider of claim 25 wherein the stepped bearing surface has a wedge shaped profile.

27. (new) The slider of claim 21 wherein the raised bearing surface or surfaces include a divergent bearing surface or surfaces including a tapered leading edge to form the narrow profile width at the leading edge and a raised center pad proximate to the trailing edge spaced from opposed sides.

28. (new) The slider of claim 27 wherein the divergent bearing surface or surfaces include opposed rails extending from the tapered leading edge.